

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for specifying, executing and analyzing method sequences for the recognition of dispatch labels and form entries, ~~characterized in that, in the comprising the steps of:~~

completing a specification phase describing plural individual processing steps of a method sequence for optical recognition of a data-filled form from one of a dispatch label and a form entry;

developing a graphical representation of each processing step of the method sequence, the method sequences are sequence input in graphical form into a computer system as flowcharts with a flowchart of the steps, each processing step corresponding to a separate flowchart block, each of the flowchart blocks having attributes and function details which define the influence of individual variables on that step of the method sequence;

compiling the graphical representation, with codes being automatically generated from the flowcharts flowchart as an internal representation which is converted by means of a compiler into a loadable, executable module which is called for including

each processing step ~~in the handling phase~~ for recognizing data filled into the respective dispatch label or form entry, ~~in that, in the;~~

using the module, performing a handling phase for recognition of optically scanned data from each data field of a scanned data-filled form, the handling phase comprising, for each of the plural individual processing steps, displaying a corresponding one of the flowchart blocks on the computer together with information for describing the particular current sequence data field and the current values of the attributes [[is]] written to an attribute file for each processing step, and in that, in the later associated with the current data field and the current flowchart block of the current processing step;

performing an analysis phase, of the scanned data of that data field during each of the individual processing steps during the handling phase are wherein each step of the method sequence is reconstructed by displaying the course of the data field processing for each dispatch or each form in the flowcharts including the current flowchart block with the attributes together with the associated images of the dispatch labels or form entries scanned image of the scanned data-filled form, with the attributes showing the current values from the attribute file for the respective dispatch label or form entry data field being analyzed.

2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that not only the attributes but also value ranges and comments are entered as part of the developing step.

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that not only the current values of the attributes but also references relating to the associated names and comments are entered into the attribute file as part of the developing step.

4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that not only the current values of the attributes but also a respective reference relating to the relevant elements in the flowchart is entered into the attribute file as part of the developing step.

5. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, during analysis, the current method step is marked in the displayed flowchart.

6. (original) The method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that, during analysis, the attributes and comments of the current, marked method step are displayed.

7. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, during online analysis, sequences are tested by changing the values of the variables and/or parameters of the functions online, which influences the sequence.

8. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that not only the current values of the attributes but also a respective reference relating to the relevant elements in the flowchart is entered into the attribute file.

9. (new) A method for specifying, executing and analyzing a method sequence for optical recognition of dispatch labels and form entries, comprising the steps of:

identifying a method sequence for an optical character recognition analysis of data fields of an input form, including analysis steps for failed recognition of the data fields, the method sequence being expressed as a series of plural individual method sequence steps, the input form being one of a dispatch label and a form entry;

specifying the method sequence steps in graphical form and inputting the graphical form of the method sequence steps into a computer system, the graphical form being a flowchart comprised of sequential flowchart blocks, each flowchart block corresponding to one method sequence step and comprised of

attributes and function details defining optical character recognition of data associated with the corresponding method sequence;

compiling the flowchart into a loadable, computer-executable module;

optically reading data from each of the data fields of a data-filled input form;

executing the computer-executable module to handle analysis of the optically read data including displaying of the flowchart, the flowchart blocks and the attributes and function details associated with each flowchart block, as displaying an optically scanned copy of the data-filled input form;

on a data field-by-data field basis, sequentially analyzing the optically read data from each data field corresponding to a different one of the method sequence steps as represented by a different one of the flowchart blocks, the attributes and function details defined for the corresponding flowchart block determining the analysis of the optically read data for that data field; and

determining data value of each optically read data based on the corresponding displayed flowchart block and the displayed associated attributes and function details.

10. (new) A method for specifying, executing and analyzing a method sequence for the recognition of an optically scanned data-filled form, comprising the steps of:

performing a specification phase, including

inputting, in graphical form, a method sequence into a computer system as a flowchart having plural flowchart blocks, each flowchart block having attributes and function details defining optical scanning recognition of a corresponding data field of a data-filled form;

compiling the flowchart into a loadable, computer-executable module;

optically scanning data from the data fields of the data-filled form and displaying the scanned form on a computer display;

executing the module and displaying on the computer display the flowchart blocks;

on a data field-by-data field basis, analyzing the scanned data by comparing the scanned data of each data field to a corresponding one of the flowchart blocks, including displaying the attributes and function details associated with the corresponding flowchart block of the data field currently being analyzed; and

recognizing the data from the scanned data based on the displayed attributes and function details.